



Richard A. Gephardt
U.S. House Democratic Leader

(202) 225-6760 phone (202) 226-0938 fax

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REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP BLOCKS BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AGAIN

Campaign finance reformers from both sides of the aisle handed the GOP Leadership an embarrassing defeat yesterday, voting down their attempts to kill campaign finance reform. What followed was a callous attempt at spin-control by the Republican Leadership – not only refusing to take the responsibility for their attempts to kill reform, but also making a bizarre attempt to blame reformers for stalling reform.

Americans overwhelmingly support campaign finance reform and know perfectly well that it was the Republican Leadership that has been standing in the way of this effort to get Big Money out of the political process for years now. Here's what the press had to say:

"The House of Representatives dealt a stunning rebuke to its Republican leaders Thursday by rejecting what most lawmakers said was an attempt to thwart a sweeping rewrite of campaign-finance laws." (USA Today, 7/13/01)

"The Republican Leadership immediately shelved the campaign finance bill after the 228 to 203 vote against the proposed rules, capping a bitter day-long struggle during which a band of rebels from **both parties effectively took control of the House and handed Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and other Republican leaders an embarrassing rebuff.**" (Wash. Post, 7/13/01)

"The outcome, after a day of behind-the-scenes wrangling that even involved Senator John McCain, was a blow to Mr. Hastert, who saw 19 Republicans join with 208 Democrats and an independent to defeat the rules for debate. (NYT, 7/13/01)

The Republican Leadership is running scared – the campaign finance reformers dogged effort to clean up the political system according to the will of the American people will not be denied.

"The defeat of the unfair rule proposed by the Republican leadership in the House shows that there is a solid bipartisan majority in support of Representatives Chris Shays and Marty Meehan and their effort to clean up the campaign finance mess. The House Republican leadership should have learned the lesson by now that they can't resort to obscure parliamentary tactics to thwart the will of the majority."

– Common Cause (Press Release, 7/13/01)

outrage of the week